Cole, Clarence E

April, 1920 (001)

April 19th, 1920

Mr. C. H. Cale,
312 Wellesley Street,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Cale:

Before I left for the West I wrote to Judge Masten about your request for a further loan from the War Memorial Fund, and on my return I have had a long letter from him setting forth his view of the matter and what has been given.

He says that already a loan of $200 has been granted you, and that he has been willing to recommend a loan of another $100 provided you give endorsation from your father or some other person, and as far as I have heard this is still waiting action on your part.

These conditions are not different from those that are asked for on other cases, so that I do not think you should regard the terms as in any way severe. This fund has been raised for the purpose of scholarships, and meantime we are allowing part of it to be used for immediate loans. Naturally in order that we may be able to meet the demands of the future grants have to be very carefully scrutinized and this is to the advantage of the person who receives as well as of the committee that makes the loan, because experience shows that it is a mistake for any student to carry a larger loan than is absolutely necessary in view of the demands that will come upon him when he first enters upon his profession, and in view of the fact that the loan would have to be recalled very shortly in order to help those who are coming in a very few years.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Toronto, April 20, 1920.

Sir Robt. A. Falconer, President,
University of Toronto, Toronto,

Dear Sir: —

My best thanks are due for your letter of the 19th inst., and for your attention to the matter referred to therein.

With regard to Judge Master's offer of a further loan to me: he insists that one half of the total sum shall be paid back in one year, and the other half in two years. His recent letter in the Alumni Monthly stated that much of this money will not be returned till between five and ten years. Obviously, the conditions imposed upon me are quite different from those that are asked for on other cases. It seems to me that a policy of helping a man part way through, and then leaving him stranded, is wasteful not only of a year of the student's life, but also of the money originally loaned him.

The fact is, however, that Mr. Justice Master has been governed, not all by my qualifications — he is the first to admit them, — nor by my financial need — there is not a more economical man in the University, — but entirely by his adverse personal opinion of me. My last interview with Mr. Justice Master — and it is this that I wish to

bring to your notice in writing — made it clear that he was attempting to usurp one of the chief functions of the Faculty, namely, that of determining who shall, and who shall not, receive degrees in this University. I cannot say whether or no he set himself to see that I do not attain a degree in Arts. But certain it is, that he deliberately followed a course of conduct, which he was fully aware would force me to abandon my course, and which in fact has had that result.

The action of Mr. Justice Master has been made still more clear by contrast to that of a corporation of this city. The Officers of the Imperial Life Assurance Company, with whom I have accepted a position, urged me strongly to write on my examinations for the B.A. degree. To this end they, on their own initiative, generously offered, not to lend me other peoples' money, but to pay me for the time which should be required to write off the examinations. Even should I be able to accept this offer, it is patent that, with the great loss of time I have suffered from reading, I must obtain a lower standing than would otherwise have been possible, and it is this that I, as a scholarship man, feel the most keenly.

May I add, Sir Robert, that, far from entering the commercial world willingly, I am one of the great

army of disappointed ones. I have but one passion—
mathematics. Pending a reply to my application for an
instructorship in Harvard University, I have been honored
by the offer of a Fellowship in mathematics in this
University. But it would seem, Sir, if I am to receive
such treatment even before the commencement of my
academic career, and that from those who profess a great
interest in higher education, that it were better never to enter.

Permit me to thank you again for your kind
consideration of this case, and to remain,

Sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Cale.